

Minutes
**Labor-Management Advisory Council on
Workers' Compensation**

April 23, 2009
11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Advisory council members present: Lt. Governor Bohlinger, Jason Miller, Bob Worthington, Jerry Keck, Don Judge, Jacquie Helt, Bill Dahlgren, Connie Welsh. Annette Hoffman and Riley Johnson gave their proxies to Bob Worthington. Dan Lee gave his proxy to Jacquie Helt.

Core team members present: Dustin de Yong, Diana Ferriter, George Kochman, and Mark Cadwallader

Others present: Nancy Butler, Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund

I. Status of Other Workers' Compensation Bills

Jerry Keck reported on the free conference committee on SJ 30 that morning. The intent of the study now differentiates between the relative roles of the LMAC and the interim study committee, with cost drivers being the focus of the LMAC and any workers' compensation system structure study being the domain of the legislative committee.

In SB 371, the Governor's amendment to the "whereas" language was not concurred with in the Senate but was in the House. This may get resolved without a free conference committee. The LMAC discussed the legislative process and the probability there were not enough votes to override the amendments.

HB 598, the workers' compensation exemption for contract musicians, passed third reading in the Senate with the amendment of requiring a written contract. It is anticipated the Governor will sign the bill, given its strong margins of support.

II. Status of WorkSafeMT funding in Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) budget bill

The Senate Finance and Claims Committee is still considering HB 2 which contains three FTE and a one-time expenditure of \$1 million for WorkSafeMT. Committee discussions have moved past the section of the bill addressing these requests but work on the bill is not yet complete.

III. Public comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Next Steps

Next meeting: Friday, May 22, Colonial Hotel Red Lion, Helena